

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01

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O R 131220Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7077

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUTY

AMEMBSSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUALEM

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT: INITIAL ISRAELI REACTION TO FORD-RABIN METING

1. SUMMARY: ON BASIS OF EXTREMELY LIMITED INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON PRESS SOURCES, INITIAL ISRAELI REACTIONS EMPHASIZE THAT A) PRESIDENTIAL MEETINGS WITH SADAT AND FORD HAVE LAID FOUNDATION FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF PROPECTS FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT; B) MAIN QUESTIION NOW IS WHETHER RABIN WILL BRING BAKC SOME INDICATIN OF EGYTPAIN READI-NESS TO CONSIER NEW CONCESSIONS AND C) WASHINGTON VISIT MAY HAVE SET STAGE FOR SOME IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL US/ISRAELI RELATIONS, CONTIGENENT ON MOVEMENT ON NEGOTIATING FRONT. END SUMMARY.

2. INITIAL ISRAELI REACTIONS TO RABIN'S WASHINGTON TRIP, BASED ON FIRST PRESS REPORTS, AR CAUTIOUS. COMMENTATORS NOTE THAT LATEST PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES HAVE LADI BASIS
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FOR NEW PHASE IN SEARCH FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT BUT AT SAME TIME THEY EMPHASIZE OBSTACLES WHICH LIE AHEAD. THE KEY QUESTION AT THIS JUNCTIURE, FROM ISRAELI PERSPECTIVE, SEEMS TO BE WHETHR RABIN WILL RETURN TO ISRAEL WITH

SOME INDICATION THAT SADAT IS
PREPARED TO RECONSIDER THE EGYPTAIN POSITION AND TO
OFFER NEW CONCESSIONS. IT IS WIDELY ANTICIPATED THAT ,
AS SOON AS RABIN RETURNS,
BOTH INSIDE CABINET AND OUTSIDE IT THERE WILL BE NEW DEBATE
ON WHAT SHOULD BE GOI TERMS FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT.

3. AMONG REPRESENTATIVE EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARIES,
UNDERLINING BOTH PROSPECTS AND DIFFICULTIES AHEAD, WE
WOULD NOTE THE FOLLOWING: DAVAR EDITORIAL JUNE 13 STATES
THAT MOVE INTENSIVE EFFORTS WILL BE NEEDED TO BREAK THE
DEADLOCK. POSITIVE RESULT OF THE FORD-RABIN MEETING
WAS THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION THAT AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT IS
PREFERABLE TO ANY OTHER OPTION. BUT, AS FAR AS IS KNOWN,
ISRAELI READINESS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS HAS NOT YET BEEN MET
BY PARALLEL EGYPTIAN WILLINGNESS TO DO SO.

4. HATZOFI, NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY NEWSPAPER, WRITES
THAT PRESIDENT FORD EXERTED PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO ACCEPT
PLAN WHICH HE INTENDS TO PRESENT IN NEAR FUTURE, AND THAT
COOL ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS SUITED THIS PURPOSE. HATZOFI
ADDS THAT, THE QUESTION NOW IS WHAT CONCESSIONS FORD WILL
DEMAND FROM EACH OF THE SIDES.

5. YEDYOT AHARONOT POLITICAL COMMENTATOR GUINNEY, IN
FRONT PAGE ASSESSMENT, WRITES THAT WASHINGTON VISIT HAS
OPENED WAY TO AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT BUT THAT ROAD AHEAD
IS STILL HARD AND FULL OF OBSTACLES. BOTH EGYPT AND
ISRAEL WANT AN AGREEMENT. BUT USG DOES NOT KNOW, OR DOES
NOT WANT TO TELL ISRAEL AT THIS STAGE, WHAT CONCESSIONS
EGYPT IS PREPARED TO MAKE, PARTICULARLY ON VITAL QUESTION OF
DURATION. OTHER ISSUES ON WHICH EGYPTIAN POSITIONS
ARE STILL UNCLEAR INCLUDE SYRIAN LINKAGE AND PASSAGE OF
ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL. ON MORE UPBAT
NOTE, GUINNEY ALSO WRITES THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT US-
ISRAELI RELATIONS WILL NOW IMPROVE. " THERE ARE GREAT HOPES
THAT THE AMERICANS WILL RESPOND FAVORABLY TO MOST OF
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ISRAELI DEMANDS IN THE MILITARY FIELD AND TO A CONSIDERABLE
PART OF ITS DEMANDS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD." (OTHER COMMENTARIES
IT SHOULD BE NOTED, ARE LESS SANGUINE).
VELIOTES

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BEIRUTY
AMEMBSSY CAIRO
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